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KINGSLEY JONATHAN

AGE: 26 (April 28, 1998) | HT: 6-4 | WT: 260

COLLEGE: Syracuse

NFL EXP: 3 Years

HOMETOWN: Lagos, Nigeria

ACQUIRED: Free Agent (2022)

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FIRST-AND-10

KINGSLEY JONATHAN originally signed with the Bills in 2022 as a UDFA out of Syracuse. Jonathan was claimed off of waivers by the Bears prior to the start of the 2022 season and played in five games for Chicago before rejoining the Bills.

SHOUTOUTS

- In 2023, played in 13 regular season games and one playoff game.
- Made his playoff debut vs. Cin (1/22/23).
- Made his Bills debut at Chi. (12/24/22) and recorded his first career tackle for loss.
- Made his NFL debut at GB (9/18/22) while with the Chicago Bears and recorded two tackles. Played in five games for the Bears during the 2022 season.
- Tallied 101 tackles (60 solo), 21.5 tackles for loss, 15.0 sacks, three forced fumbles and two fumble recoveries in 56 career games with the Syracuse Orange (2017-21).
- In 2021, appeared in 12 games for Syracuse with one start, recording 20 tackles, 5.5 TFLs and 4.5 sacks.
- In 2020, started all 11 games on defensive line. Finished the season with 32 tackles (25 solo), 5.5 tackles for loss, 3.0 sacks, a forced fumble, four quarterback hurries and three pass deflections.
- In 2019, appeared in 12 games as a reserve defensive end.

PERSONAL

Full name is Chukwuemeka Kingsley Jonathan. Born in Lagos, Nigeria and attended St. Frances Academy in Baltimore, MD for high school. Guardians are Tim and Tyra Grate. Has one brother and two sisters. Holds a Bachelor's degree in information management and technology & a Master's degree in instructional design, development, and education.

IF YOU HAVEN'T HERD

FROM NIGERIA TO THE NFL

Kingsley Jonathan's family is back in Lagos, Nigeria cheering him on as he tries to make the Bills roster, even if they aren't familiar with the NFL. "My family back home, they don't understand the magnitude of it," said Jonathan. "So I tried to explain to them as much as I could but they were excited."

Growing up in Lagos, Nigeria, Jonathan says that he was a good basketball player. As a result, his parents felt that he would be better off taking his skills to the United States. But that meant at 14 years old he would be leaving his family behind. "It was pretty tough," said Jonathan. "But I had one goal in mind. Just to make it to the NBA." But everything went left once he arrived on American soil. The host family that took Jonathan was alleged to be a part of an FBI human trafficking scheme...Yes, Jonathan's first year in the US he didn't go to school. However, one of his friend's parents saw the situation he was in and decided to adopt him. From there, he found the game of football, the American version.

"I didn't even know what football was until I got here," said Jonathan. "It was a sport where I was just running around. Just hitting people, line back up, run around. Hit somebody. Line back up. I don't know what I was doing I was just running around." Once he realized that he was good at football, the Nigerian native began to invest more time in the game. He started to spend more hours on the field to hone his craft and even studied film of great players in the NFL such as his current teammate, Von Miller.

Jonathan hasn't seen his family since he migrated to the US and they have never seen him play football. He says his mother and father are why he keeps going and he's motivated to one day repay them. "This is because of them and the sacrifices they've made," said Jonathan. "I'm here because of them and I hope I can keep making them proud."

(Rochester First, Carl Jones, July 27, 2022)